[Translation]

Setting up of a Thermal Power Project

2731. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey was conducted in the past to set up a Thermal Power Plant at Ballia in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be approved and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) A proposal of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) to instal 3x250 MW Thermal Power Station at Balthera Road in Distt. Ballia was received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 8.11.1992. After examining the proposal, it was observed that various inputs/ clearances such as compliance of Sec. 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, coal linkage, water availability (Centre), environmental clearance (Centre & State), associated transmission clearance and civil aviation clearance were not tied-up. The water requirement for this project was proposed from river Ghagra. However, the Ministry of Water Resources had imposed restriction for drawal of water from river Ghagra during the lean period. In view of the fact that various inputs/clearances had not been tied-up, UPSEB were informed in February, 1994 that this scheme was not being pursued in CEA. Since then, no fresh proposal for this project has been received from UPSEB.

[English]

Joint Venture in Oil Sector

2732. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Qutar have set up a high-level group to examine proposals for Joint ventures/ investments in oil, gas and downstream projects in the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the members of the group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Committee will identify and expedite projects of mutual interest. The Indian side will be headed by CMD, GAIL.

Oil Refinery in Orissa

2733. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to change the place of the proposed oil refinery in Orissa and also to change the pattern of collaboration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the participation of the Government, companies and foreign collaborators and when the proposed refinery is likely to commence its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has in principle approval to set up a 6 MMTPA joint venture refinery in the East Coast. During the feasibility study, the refinery was proposed to be located at Daitari. However, exact location of the refinery will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report.

(c) The project is proposed to be implemented as joint venture with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), with equity participation of 26% each. The implementation of the project is expected to take approximately 46 months for mechanical completion from the date of Government approval.

Rural Sanitation Programme

2734. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the absence of sanitation facility in backward states like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure sanitation facilities in the rural areas of these States;

(c) the details of Rural Sanitation Programme being launched in these States; and

(d) the allocation of funds to these States during the Eighth Plan under Rural Sanitation Programme, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme is under implementation to augment the efforts of the State Governments to provide sanitation facilities in the States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The information is given in the attached statement.